

10/708,981 Dupuis et al.

Examiner Chris Bottorff

**PROPOSED DRAFT CLAIM REVISIONS
FOR
DISCUSSION DURING TELEPHONIC INTERVIEW TUESDAY, 15 AUGUST 2006**

1. (currently amended) A support structure for storing accessories in an engine compartment of a vehicle having a frame, comprising:

a first tubular member forming a part of the frame;

a second tubular member forming a part of the frame, the second tubular member being disposed at least in part adjacent to the first tubular member and having a base support portion; and

an accessory tray having a supporting surface and at least two upstanding walls, wherein the accessory tray is secured to a side wall of the first tubular member and wherein the accessory tray is secured to a top surface of the base support portion of the second tubular member by a lower support securing flange.

2. (previously presented) The support structure of claim 1, wherein the tubular members are hydroformed.

3. (currently amended) The support structure of claim 1, wherein the accessory tray has a base portion secured to the inboard surface of the base support portion.

4. (previously presented) The support structure of claim 1, wherein the accessory tray has a front wall and a transverse side wall adjacent to the first tubular member.

5. (currently amended) A battery support assembly for a vehicle, comprising:
a first tubular member that forms part of a frame of the vehicle, the first tubular member having a transversely extending portion and a longitudinally extending portion;
a second tubular member that forms part of the frame of the vehicle, the second tubular member being disposed at least in part adjacent to the first tubular member and having a transversely extending base support portion that is spaced rearwardly from the transversely

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extending portion of the first tubular member; and

a battery tray having a supporting surface and at least two upstanding side walls, wherein the battery tray is secured to the transversely extending portion of the first tubular member by one upstanding side wall, wherein the battery tray is secured to the longitudinally extending portion of the first tubular member by another upstanding side wall, and wherein the battery tray is secured to the base support portion of the second tubular member by a lower support securing flange.

6. (previously presented) The battery support assembly of claim 5, wherein the tubular frame members are hydroformed.

7. (currently amended) The battery support assembly of claim 5, wherein the battery tray has a base portion secured to the inboard surface of the base support portion.

8. (previously presented) The battery support assembly of claim 5, wherein the battery tray has a front wall adjacent to the longitudinally extending portion and a transverse side wall adjacent to the first tubular frame member transverse extending portion.

9. (currently amended) A battery support structure for a vehicle having at least one battery, comprising:

a battery tray having a battery supporting surface and a plurality of upstanding walls;

a first tubular frame member forming part of a frame of the vehicle;

a second tubular frame member forming part of the frame of the vehicle and being secured together to the first tubular frame member;

the first and second tubular frame members defining a plurality of side wall

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supports and a base support, the battery supporting surface of the battery tray being supported by the base support and at least one of the upstanding walls being secured to one of the side wall supports.

10. (currently amended) A battery support structure for a vehicle having at least one battery, comprising:

a first tubular frame member forming part of a front end of the vehicle;

a second tubular frame member forming part of the front end of the vehicle and being secured together to the first tubular frame member;

a tray support being defined by the first and second tubular frame members, the tray support defining a lower portion and a side portion; and

a battery tray having a battery supporting surface and a plurality of upstanding side walls, the battery supporting surface overlying the lower portion and at least one of the plurality of upstanding side walls are secured to the side portion.